

### Amendments to the Claims

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A computerized method comprising:

receiving, from a first application on a client computer, a first request, ~~in~~ at a connection manager, for a connection to a remote resource;

saving in a data structure, an identifier of the first request for a connection;

upon receiving the first request for connection, creating the connection between the first application and the remote resource when ~~the~~ a physical hardware connection between the client computer and the remote is not already established;

receiving, ~~in~~ at the connection manager, a second request from a second application for connection to the same remote resource as the first application, the first application, the second application and the connection manager all being located on ~~a same~~ the same client computer;

sharing the connection to the remote resource between the first application and the second application, wherein sharing the connection includes having the first and second applications using the same physical hardware connection to the remote resource;

receiving a request for a disconnection from a remote resource;

deleting from the data structure, an identifier of the request for the disconnection;

disconnecting the physical hardware connection upon a disconnection request when the deleted identifier is the last identifier of a request for a connection in the data structure and when the deleted identifier is not the last identifier, maintaining the connection.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

removing an identifier of a request for a connection from the data structure after a period of time after the request is made if a process associated with the identifier has terminated.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the remote resource is a web server.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the connection is a dial-up connection between a modem and an Internet service provider.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the method is running on a wireless device with plural applications sending the connection requests and communicating with remote resources over the connection.

12-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

creating a physical hardware connection in response to a request from a first process to communicate with a remote resource, the process being located on a client computer;

using a connection manager, storing identifiers of multiple other processes requesting communicating with remote resources via the connection, the first process sharing the physical hardware connection with the multiple other processes and wherein the first process, the multiple other processes and the connection manager are located on the same computer;

using the connection manager, removing an identifier of one of the processes from the stored identifiers when the process requests a disconnection;

maintaining the connection when a process requests a disconnection when stored identifiers indicate another process is communicating with remote resources via the connection; and

disconnecting the physical hardware connection when a process requests a disconnection when stored identifiers indicate no other process is communicating with remote resources via the connection.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising executable instructions for removing an identifier of a process from the stored identifiers when the process has terminated.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising executable instructions for periodically removing identifiers of processes from the stored identifiers when the processes have terminated without requesting a disconnect.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting plural applications to a remote resource, comprising:

receiving a first request from a first application, located on a client computer, to connect to a remote resource;

establishing a physical hardware connection between the first application and the remote resource;

receiving a second request from a second application located on the same client computer as the first application to connect to the same remote resource;

using the same established physical hardware connection for the second application so that the first application and second application share the physical hardware connection to the remote resource;

using a centralized connection manager, maintaining a record of which applications are using the shared connection;

in response to a disconnection request from either the first or second application, maintaining the connection while at least one of the applications has not disconnected and remains in the record and otherwise disconnecting the physical hardware connection.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the requests are received by an operating system located on the client computer.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the requests are received by the operating system through an application program interface.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the connection is a dial-up connection between a modem and an Internet service provider.